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36

NABOO QUEEN'S ROYAL STARSHIP

Amidala's regal transport

R2-D2 to the rescue

Theed Royal Palace

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CONTENTS

2 Legendary Craft
Fit for a Queen: The Naboo royal starship

4 Action Stations
Escaping Naboo: Astromech rescue

6 Welcome On Board
Queen Amidala: Leadership in dangerous times

10 Starship & Vehicle Directory
Bainaboo Star Skiff: Sign of the times

12 In Command
Queen Amidala's Naboo royal starship: Regal Transport

18 Droids, Aliens & Creatures
Captain Panaka: The Queen's loyal protector

20 In A Galaxy Far, Far Away
Naboo: Theed royal palace

24 A Revolution In Film
Trisha Biggar: Costume designer

26 Movie Magic
The Naboo royal starship: A streamlined vision

28 Did You Know?

29 Star Wars A–Z

NEXT ISSUE:
Homing spider droid

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STAR WARS

"ONE NABOO CRUISER GOT PAST THE BLOCKADE."

NUTE GUNRAY

Thanks to the Queen's involvement in the ending of the Trade Federation invasion of Naboo, Amidala's J-type 327 Nubian Naboo royal starship saw more action than any other for many generations before or after – despite the fact that the sleek chromium vessel was entirely unarmed.

FIT FOR A QUEEN

THE NABOO ROYAL STARSHIP

With its sleek styling and unique chromium finish, the Naboo royal starship used by Queen Amidala was one of the most striking craft ever produced by the Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps.

When Queen Amidala of the Naboo came to the throne, she inherited the modified J-type 327 Nubian royal starship commissioned around five years earlier by the corrupt King Veruna. Fortunately, Amidala was able to restore faith in the Naboo monarchy. The beautiful royal starship once again became associated with an honourable ruler. Indeed, the concept behind the design of the starship was always a statement of the nobility of the Naboo spirit, the blending of art with practicality, and the preservation of the balance between technology and nature.

Made On Naboo – Mostly

The royal starship was designed by the Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps, whose main production facility was adjacent to the Theed Royal Palace, and included the hangars that housed the royal starship and the N-1 starfighters also designed and built on Naboo. The Engineering Corps built the spaceframe for the royal starship, but the vast majority of the internal components were crafted and shipped to the Naboo engineers by the Nubian Design Collective, who were regular contributors to Theed Palace

projects. Of particular importance to Queen Amidala's ship was the Nubian 327 hyperdrive – an elegant system that the Naboo engineers tuned to perfection, to lower emissions as far as possible. The construction of the royal starship was carried out by hand, with everything from the hull supports to the wiring constructed to the exacting standards that the Theed engineers worked to as a mark of respect for their monarchs and their people.

Unique Finish

The most striking aspect of the vessel was, of course, the all-over chromium finish. This was unique to royal starships, although a partial chromium covering was afforded to the N-1 starfighters (and their predecessors) that flew escort for the monarchs' ships. The interior of the ship was equally elegant and deceptively spacious, with the majority of the accommodation being set aside for the monarch and their retinue. There was even a throne room at the rear of the ship where the monarch could conduct audiences and hold meetings in appropriate style while off-world or in transit.

Traditional

The royal starship was unarmed, according to Naboo tradition. It was, however, heavily shielded and both fast and agile despite its size. These were to prove vital within five months of Queen Amidala coming to the throne.

ESCAPING NABOO

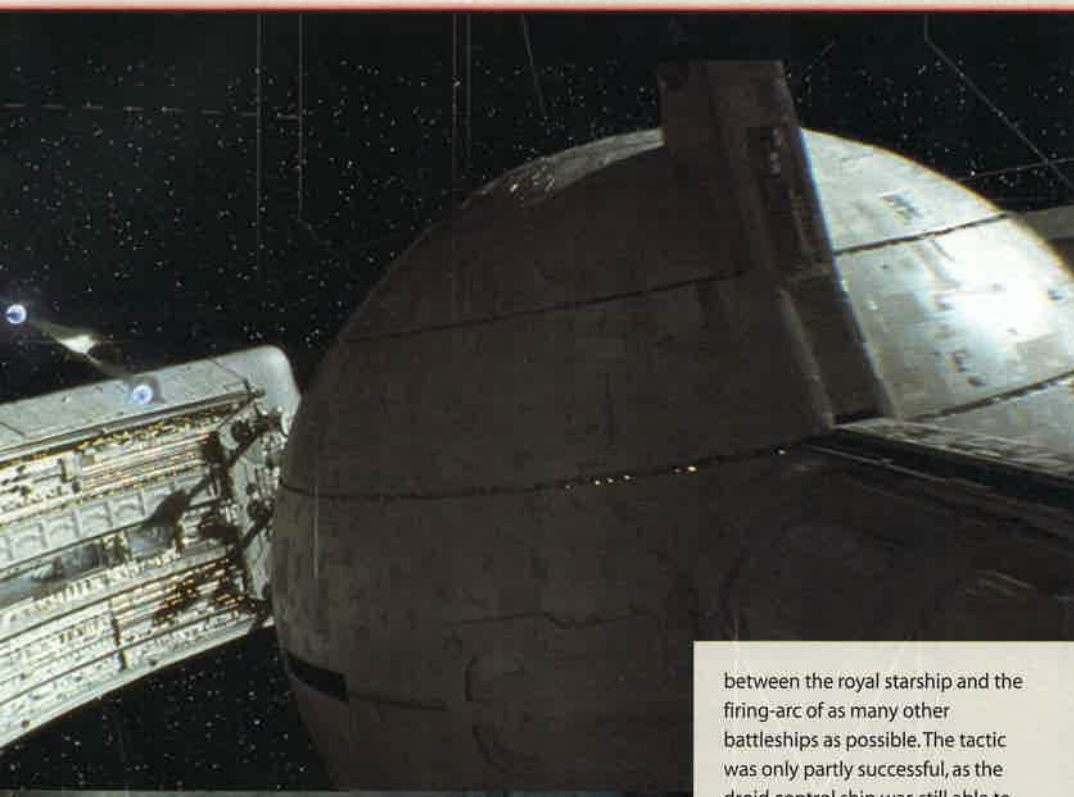
ASTROMECH RESCUE

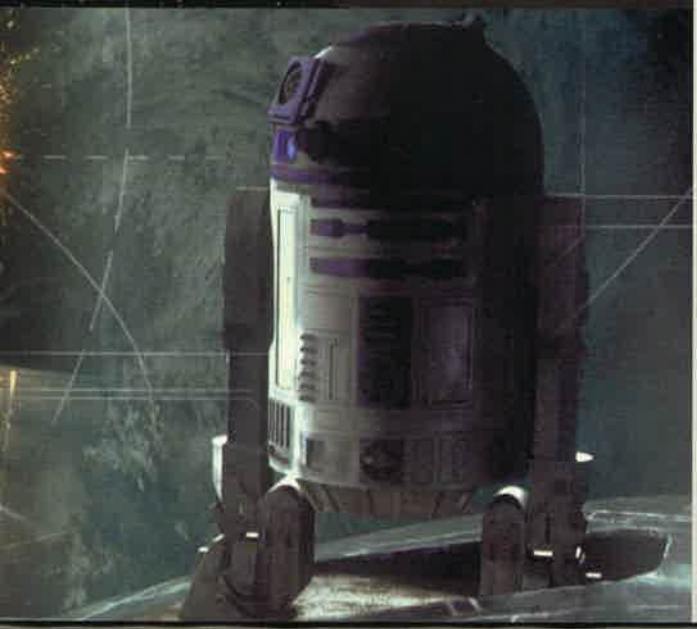
Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn and his Padawan Obi-Wan Kenobi managed to rescue Queen Amidala and the crew of her royal starship. The real challenge, however, lay ahead of the fleeing craft – the Trade Federation planetary blockade.

The fast-moving royal starship had surprise on its side as it lifted from the Theed Hangar. The ship's pilot, Ric Olié, was able to quickly take the vessel up into orbit, avoiding any chance of being intercepted by patrolling Trade Federation droid fighters. Unfortunately, despite its Headon-5 sublight engines, which made the royal starship faster than many starfighters, it still had to get past the blockade of Trade Federation *Lucrehulk*-class battleships and their fearsome turbolaser batteries.

Daring escape

Olié pointed his ship directly at the droid control ship, putting it





between the royal starship and the firing-arc of as many other battleships as possible. The tactic was only partly successful, as the droid control ship was still able to fire on the fast-approaching Naboo vessel. A lucky shot crippled the shields and damaged the hyperdrive, forcing the deployment of the ship's astromech droids. They used their magnetised wheels to move along the surface of the ship to the damage site. Unfortunately, the stationary droids began to be picked off one by one, until only a single droid remained. R2-D2 was able to reroute the shield systems, saving himself and the ship. Ric Olié whipped the ship along the surface of the droid control ship, minimising the incoming fire. Moments later, the royal starship limped into hyperspace and to relative safety.

QUEEN AMIDALA

LEADERSHIP IN DANGEROUS TIMES

Born in a humble mountain village on Naboo, Padmé Naberrie was destined for a life at the very centre of galactic politics. Her destiny was steeped in tragedy, though she began in triumph, leading her people courageously through its darkest time as their Queen.

Ruwee and his wife Jobal moved with their children, Padmé and her older sister Sola, to Theed when Padmé was very young. Ruwee was a builder, a master craftsman, who had been a volunteer in the Refugee Relief Movement. Jobal worked in social service, where she helped the underprivileged. Ruwee and Jobal had hoped the move to Theed would offer Padmé and Sola more opportunities than the mountain village could, and in this they were fully vindicated.

Early Service

Her excellent schooling in Theed did not diminish the selflessness Padmé inherited from her parents. As her father had done before her, Padmé joined the Refugee Relief Movement. She travelled off-world during the doomed relief effort on the planet Shadda-Bi-Boran, whose natives sadly died when they failed to adapt to their new worlds. Then, at the age of just eight, the precociously intelligent Padmé joined the Apprentice Legislature – a galaxy-wide organisation for

"The first time I saw the Capital, I was very young... I'd never seen a waterfall before. I thought they were so beautiful... I never dreamed one day I'd live in the palace."

Padmé

PROFILE

Queen Amidala

Homeworld
Naboo

Species
Human

Height
1.65m

Vehicle
Royal starship

Affiliation
Naboo, Galactic Republic

politically minded youths. She became a fully-fledged Apprentice Legislator by the age of 11.

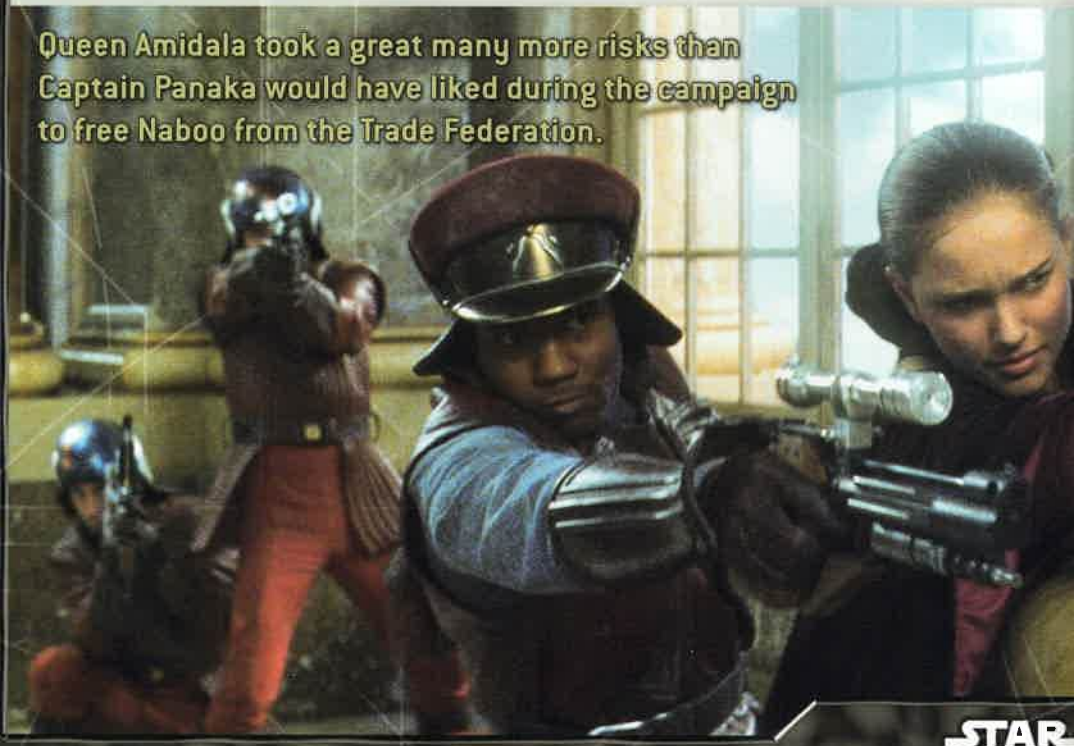
In Opposition

Padmé grew up during the reign of the King Veruna. Thanks to the behind-the-scenes advice of the likes of Senator Palpatine – the public mask worn by Sith Lord Darth Sidious – Veruna had become involved in various scandals off-world. His rule of Naboo became increasingly profligate, corrupt

and tyrannical. At the age of 13, Padmé was elected Princess of Theed – a mayoral role at which she excelled. A vocal critic of Veruna, Padmé was persuaded to run for the monarchy when Veruna finally abdicated. The planet-wide electronic election took four minutes to elect Padmé as Queen in an unprecedented landslide.

The Queen In Training

Taking the name Amidala, the new Queen started as she meant to continue. The constitution of the Naboo was amended in light of Veruna's corrupt rule, so that no monarch could rule for more than two four-year terms. Though busy undoing much of the damage Veruna had done, both administratively and to the reputation of the Naboo monarchy, Amidala was also being put through her paces by her newly appointed Head of Security. Captain Panaka was justly concerned for the security of the young Queen to the point of paranoia, particularly after the assassination of the retired Veruna by unknown agents. He devised a new role for a small group of handmaidens, all of whom were selected because of their approximate likeness to Padmé. The Queen and her handmaidens were trained in combat, armed and



Queen Amidala took a great many more risks than Captain Panaka would have liked during the campaign to free Naboo from the Trade Federation.

The Royal Wardrobe

Queen Amidala's wardrobe was designed by concept artist Iain McCaig and costume designer Trisha Biggar for Episode I, and they were joined by artist Dermot Power to design Padmé's clothes for Episode II. Artists Jun Lee and Warren Fu joined McCaig and Biggar for Episode III's costumes, with additional work from artist Erik Tiemens.

unarmed, as well as in survival techniques. Padmé even learned to fly an N-1 starfighter. The royal handmaidens became friends to Queen Amidala as well as bodyguards, but would also step in as decoys if necessary – often to the Queen's dismay.

Invasion Force

Even as Amidala was earning plaudits as Queen, her greatest test was to come. Five months into her reign, the Trade Federation blockaded and then invaded the planet – part of the schemes of Darth Sidious. Amidala was rescued by two Jedi and spirited away from Naboo. She eventually returned to lead her people personally in the battle to free the planet, forging a lasting alliance with the Gungans in the process. Thereafter, Amidala worked tirelessly to promote peace on Naboo and beyond. At the end of her second four-year term of office, the Naboo wanted to amend the constitution to allow her to stay on as Queen, but Amidala refused. Instead, she stepped down in favour of Queen Jamillia, to become Naboo's representative in the Senate. Padmé's trials were only just beginning.

BAINABOO STAR SKIFF

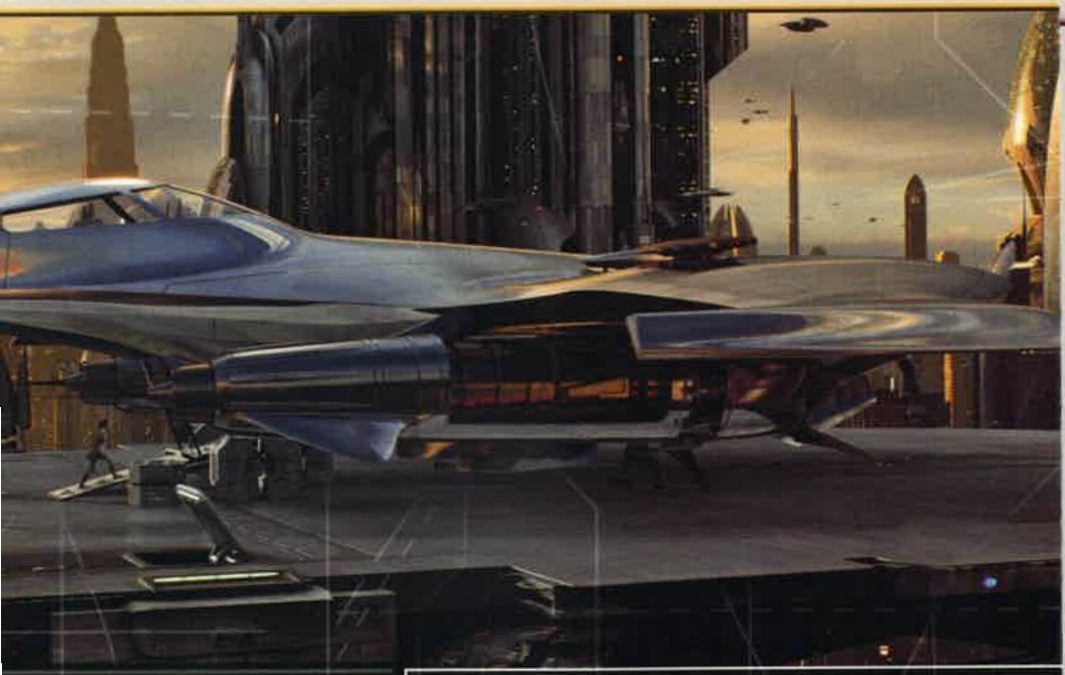
SIGN OF THE TIMES

Built for Queen Apailana of Naboo, the royal J-type star skiff maintained many traditional aspects of Naboo royal transports. However, designed and constructed during the Clone Wars, it also had telling differences and was touched by a tragedy that affected the galaxy.

As before, the Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps worked with the Nubian Design Collective to produce a new royal starship. Designed primarily as a passenger transport yacht, rather than as a venue for diplomacy, the small but spacious ship could comfortably carry three passengers. There was plenty of locker storage and even a medical suite. The three-man crew consisted of a pilot, navigator and a gunner. This was the first royal Naboo vessel in generations to be armed from the outset. The top-mounted laser cannons were for defence rather than attack, and the ship was very much designed for a speedy escape from danger. Additionally, the star skiff could refuel N-1 fighter escorts as needed.

Shadow of Past Glories

The hand-finished chromium outer shell remained a royal preserve. However, the glittering finish on the star skiff did not extend as far as the Sossen-7 sublight engines – another sign of the troubled times. Unusually, the Theed Palace engineers built other very similar craft on private commission to wealthy senators. The royal vessel, however, was retired at the end of the Clone Wars because of its tragic history. The star skiff was given on permanent loan to Senator Padmé Amidala, and she used it often during the Clone Wars when she needed a ship larger and faster than her H-type Nubian yacht. Though she could fly it herself, Padmé often left her chief of security, Captain Typho, or even C-3PO to fly the ship. Padmé flew it to Mustafar herself, where she was mortally wounded by Anakin Skywalker. Obi-Wan Kenobi flew the ship and Padmé to Polis Massa, but the Senator unfortunately died there.



Naboo Royal Star Skiff PROFILE

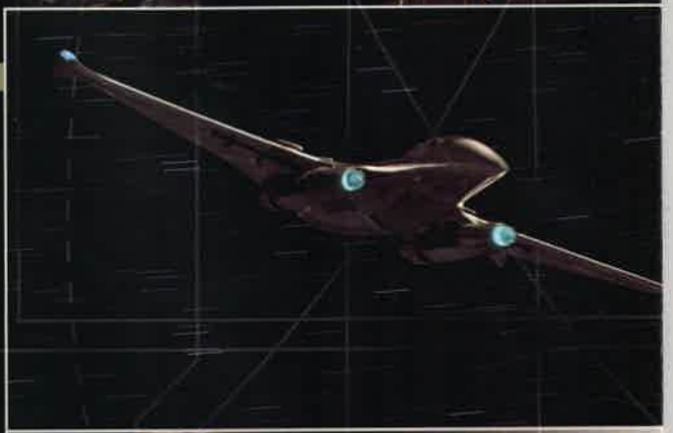
Type
Personal star yacht

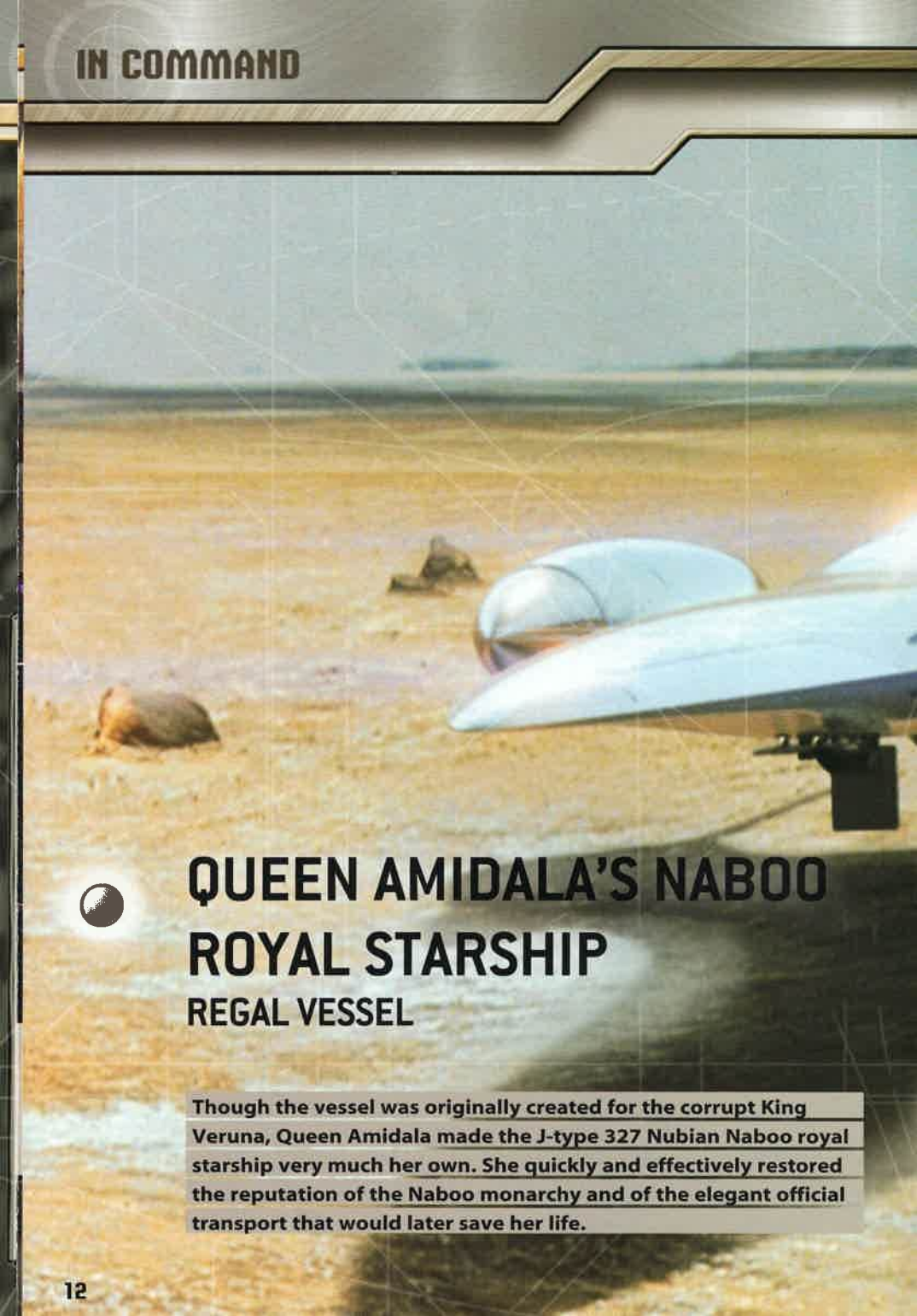
Manufacturer
Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps and the Nubian Design Collective

Size
29.2m long, 49.3m wide

Weapon
2x laser cannon

Affiliation
Royal House of Naboo





QUEEN AMIDALA'S NABOO ROYAL STARSHIP

REGAL VESSEL

Though the vessel was originally created for the corrupt King Veruna, Queen Amidala made the J-type 327 Nubian Naboo royal starship very much her own. She quickly and effectively restored the reputation of the Naboo monarchy and of the elegant official transport that would later save her life.

When Queen Amidala's royal starship approached Tatooine, it was decided that they should head for the bustling port of Mos Espa. Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn ordered the ship to land on the outskirts of the settlement. He knew the unique ship would draw immediate and unwanted attention should it land in a docking bay in town, even in the throng of vessels coming and going for the Boonta Eve podrace. The Jedi also forbade any off-world communication from the ship so they could remain undetected. As it was, Sith apprentice Darth Maul was still able to track the ship to Tatooine, and eventually found and followed Qui-Gon back to the royal starship, forcing the group to flee once again.

QUEEN AMIDALA'S NABOO ROYAL STARSHIP

Type
Regal transport

Model
Modified J-type 327 Nubian starship

Manufacturer
Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps/ Nubian Design Collective

Length
76 metres

Sublight Engines
2x Headon-5

Hyperdrive
Nubian 327 with an integrated T-14 hyperdrive generator

Hyperdrive rating
Class 1.8

Weapons
None

Crew
1x pilot, 1x co-pilot, 1x comms officer, 1x navigator, 1x engineer, 1x boatswain, 1x security officer, 1x diplomatic aide, 8x astromech droids

Passengers
Queen Amidala and handmaidens

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Stereos
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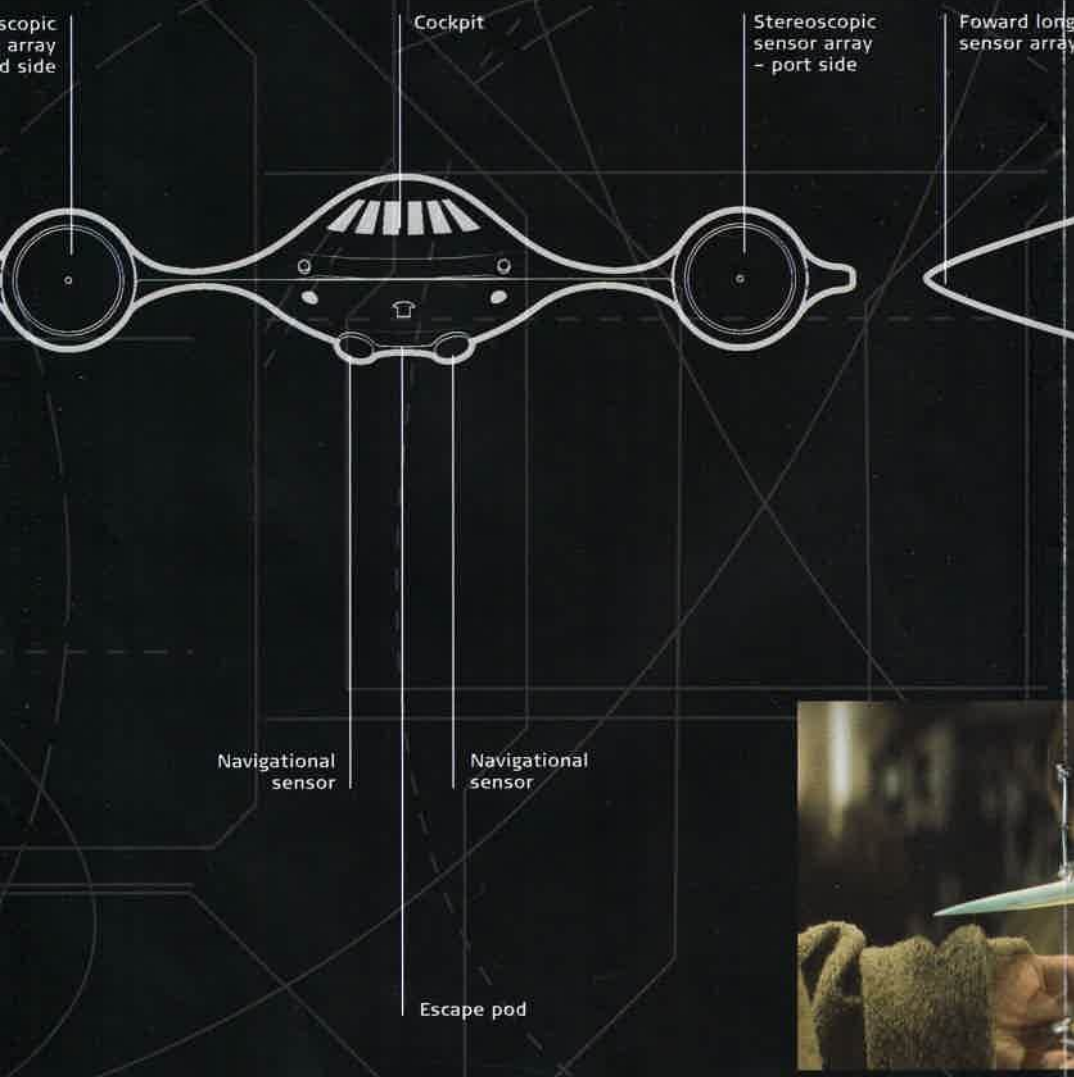
oyal starship's spaceframe was designed and built on Naboo, but the majority
ponents came from off-world – specifically from the Nubian Design Collective.
hers with the Theed engineers, the Collective was a group of designers and en
colonised the planet Nubia some 300 years before the outbreak of the Clone W



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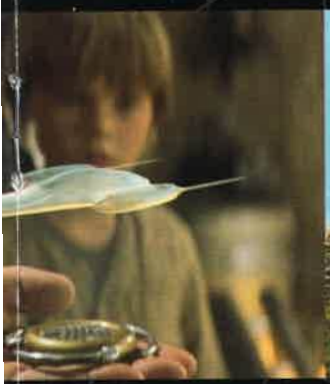

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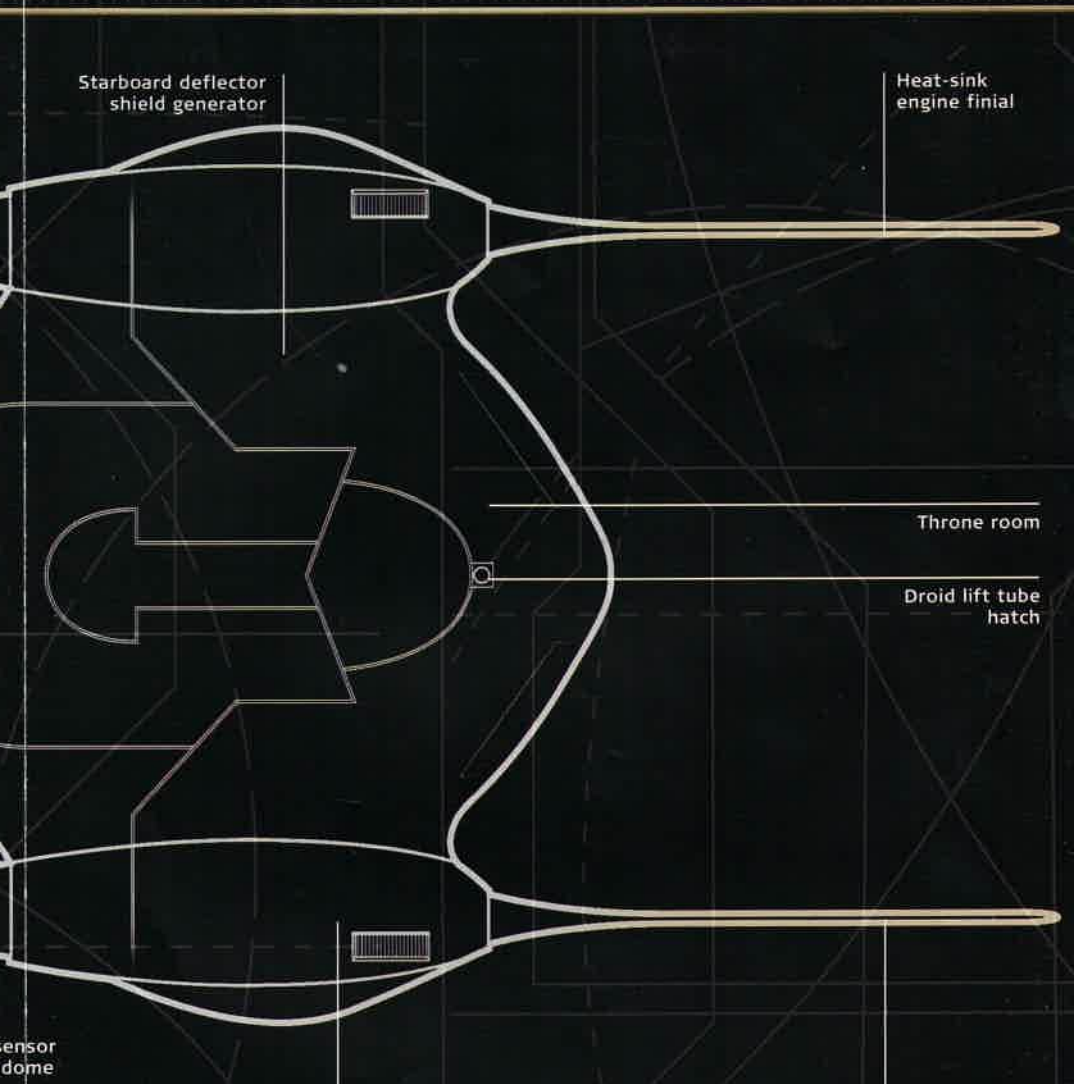


ed Headon-5 sublight
ble to propel the royal
eds that rivalled many
upled with the powerful
ls, they ensured the royal
get out of trouble quickly.

CAPTAIN PANAKA

THE QUEEN'S LOYAL PROTECTOR

Pessimistic, verging on anti-social at times in his behaviour to others, Panaka was nonetheless an honest and selflessly dedicated man who commanded respect and loyalty from his security troops.

Born on Naboo, Panaka was educated off-world. He demonstrated a flair for security and law-enforcement, specialising in threat analysis and personal combat. His abilities enabled him to join a Republic special task force combating pirate activity, a near-constant threat in the Chommell Sector, of which Naboo was part. Back home, Panaka enlisted in the Royal Naboo Security Forces. While he was off-world, his older sister had died in a training accident, and Panaka dealt with this by burying himself in his work. Though dedicated, he was considered anti-social by his peers. However, Panaka was becoming increasingly aware of the corruption in a security force he also found inefficient. Working continually to improve things, Panaka designed a liquid-cable grappling hook shooter – the ascension gun that became the Security Forces' standard equipment.

Head Of Security

Panaka had suspicions that the corruption in Naboo society went to the highest level, but was never able to prove it thanks to the interference of his superior, Captain Magenta. The monarch, King Veruna, abdicated in disgrace and was later assassinated. Magenta resigned, but Panaka had his suspicions. Promoted to Head of Security by the new Queen Padmé Amidala, Panaka had little time to pursue Magenta, as he had the Security Forces to reorganise. Five months later, when the Trade Federation invaded Naboo, Panaka fought side by side with Amidala and the security volunteers to drive them off. Years later, when Amidala stood down, Panaka stayed on as protector of the new Queen while his nephew, Gregar Typho, looked after Senator Padmé Amidala.

Moff Panaka

The militaristic and increasingly security-obsessed Panaka found an ally in Senator Palpatine of Naboo. When he became Supreme Chancellor of the Republic and later Emperor, Panaka's loyal – if naïve – service was recognised by his promotion to Moff in charge of the Chommell Sector. A gift from Panaka, a statue, was on display in the Emperor's receiving chamber of the second Death Star.

PROFILE

Captain Panaka

Homeworld

Naboo

Species

Human

Height

1.8m

Weapon

Security S-5 blaster (with ascension gun)

Affiliation

Naboo

NABOO

THEED ROYAL PALACE

Some 800 years before the Battle of Yavin, Theed became the capital of Naboo after King Jafan united the disparate city-states. The city was dominated by the many beautiful domes and turrets of the Royal Palace, which perched on the very edge of the cliff.

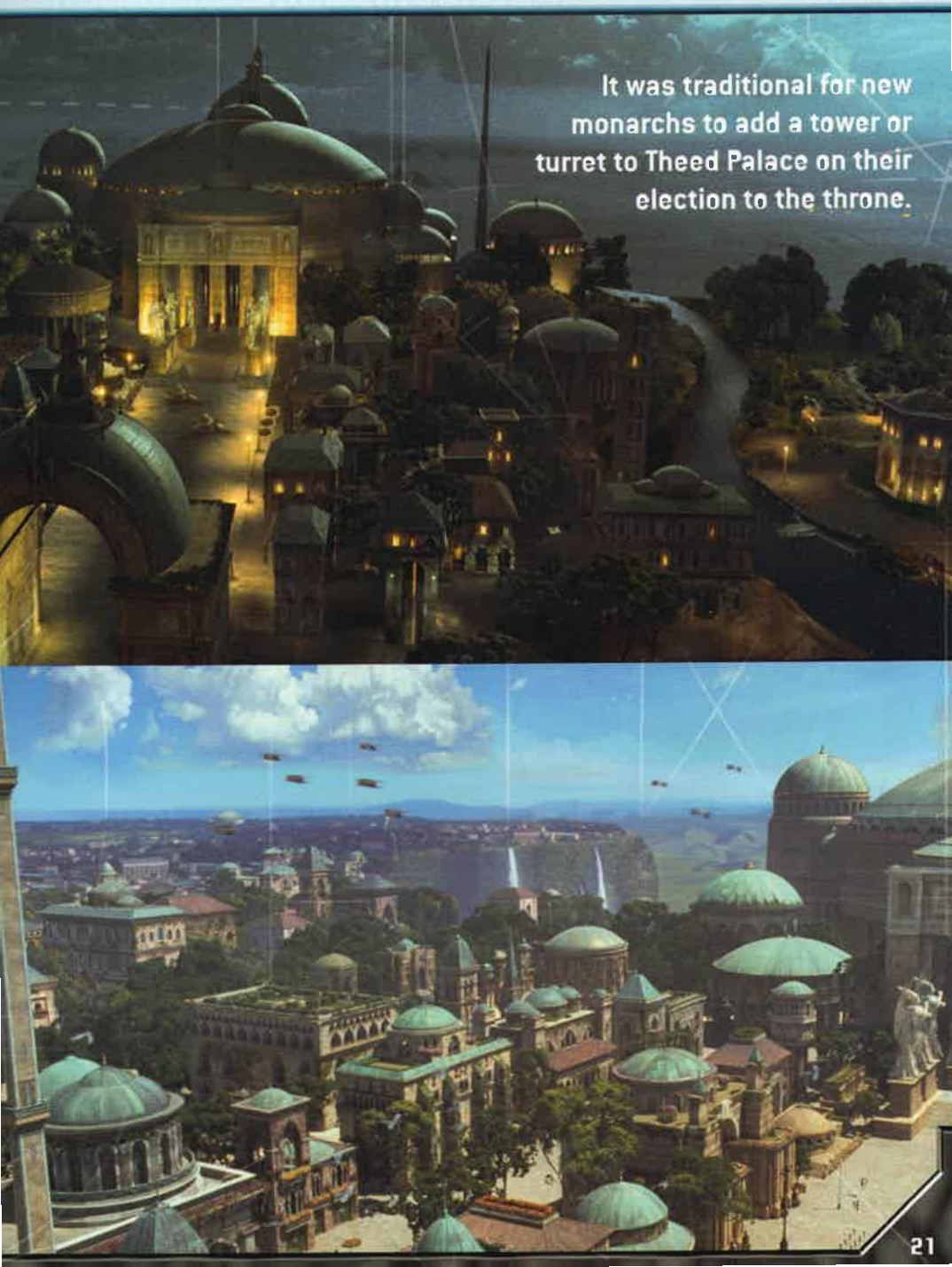
With King Jafan bringing to an end some 200 years of on-off conflict among the human Naboo, what was then the relatively small city of Theed expanded rapidly, partly due to an influx of farmers, engineers and artisans who brought about a 'second foundation' for the city. Despite the potential for unchecked expansion, the growth of Theed was ordered and controlled, leading to the creation of one of the more beautiful cities in the galaxy. In honour of King Jafan, planners set the Royal Palace at the heart of the city, with a network of streets, avenues and plazas stretching out from it.

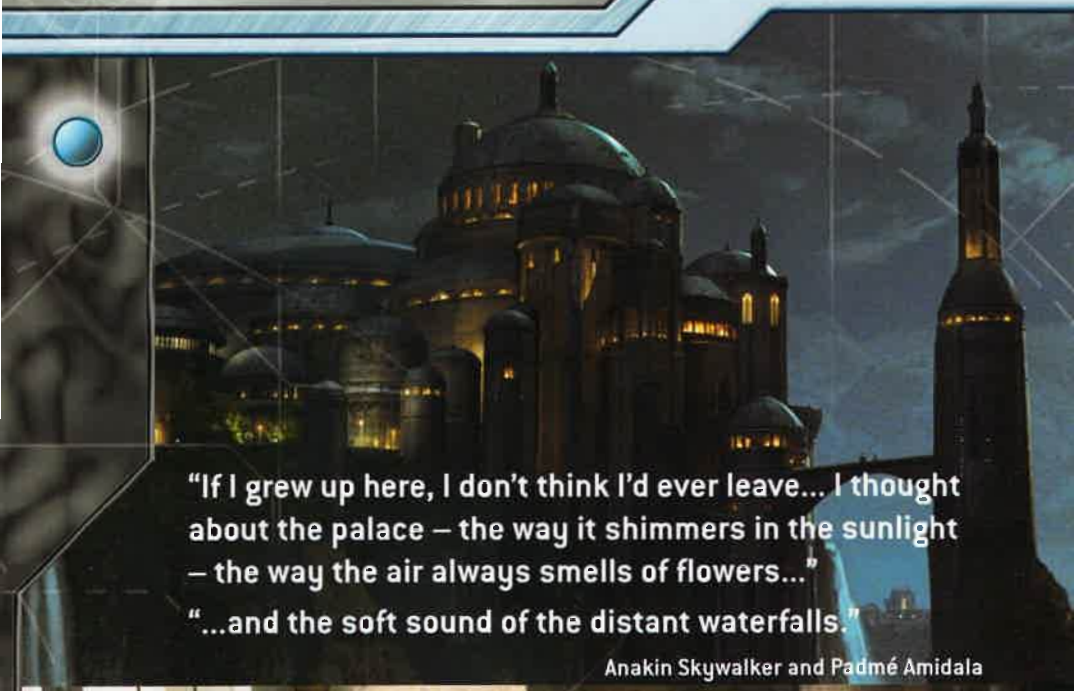
The Palace Surroundings

Palace Plaza ran from the city proper up to the steps in front of the palace. In the middle of this long, wide avenue was a Triumphal Arch that celebrated the achievements of the Naboo people as well as their monarchs. To one side of the Palace Plaza was the Grand Plaza, or Palace Courtyard, added after the Trade Federation invasion of Naboo. One of the largest construction projects in Theed since the second founding of the city, the Grand Plaza was built over an area of Theed that had been heavily bombed during the occupation. In tribute to those who died during the invasion and liberation, the plaza celebrated Naboo art and philosophy.

Seat Of Government

Theed Palace was more than just a royal residence. As practical as it was beautiful, the palace was the centre of government for the planet, and was where the Naboo Royal Advisory Council met. The throne room of the palace, where the monarch and Advisory Council met, was in the square-walled, domed structure above the main entrance to the palace. It was an ornate and elegant space built of polished marble. Since Captain Panaka's


It was traditional for new monarchs to add a tower or turret to Theed Palace on their election to the throne.



"If I grew up here, I don't think I'd ever leave... I thought about the palace – the way it shimmers in the sunlight – the way the air always smells of flowers..."

"...and the soft sound of the distant waterfalls."

Anakin Skywalker and Padmé Amidala

Behind The Scenes

While long shots of the city and palace were made up of matte paintings and CGI, the interiors of Theed Palace were shot in the Caserta Palace near Naples. The Grand Plaza exteriors for Episode II were shot at the Plaza de España in Seville.

time as Head of Security for Queen Amidala, the royal throne featured a secret compartment that held weapons – very useful in the liberation of Naboo from the Trade Federation. Behind the throne room building was the Turret Room – actually a series of lavish chambers built to house and cater for visiting dignitaries and their staff. Built by King Jafan to honour the visiting rulers of the city-states absorbed into a united Naboo, it was a section of the palace that was frequently extended by following monarchs. This included the corrupt King Veruna, who established a huge library.

More Than Meets the Eye

Theed Palace was connected to many other parts of the city by long corridors and by tunnels both public and private. Two key locations to which it was linked were the Royal Academy, where many monarchs were educated, and the Theed Hangar where the royal starship waited. The cliff on which the palace stood was honeycombed with natural tunnels, channelled by the river that now formed the waterfall. A secret few of these passageways had been used in the troubled times before King Jafan. In more recent times, they were used again by Queen Amidala and her allies as the means by which to infiltrate occupied Theed.

TRISHA BIGGAR
COSTUME DESIGNER

From theatre to film to television, Costume Designer Trisha Biggar brought a broad background of expertise to her work designing the costumes of Episode I.

Costume Designer Trisha Biggar could rely on a broad background of experience when she set out to meet the many costume challenges of *Star Wars*: Episode I. Her work with prestigious British theatre companies, such as the Glasgow Citizen's Theatre, and extensive film and TV experience (including *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*) had more than prepared her for whatever would arise during her work on the next chapter of the *Star Wars* saga. Still, the unusual aspects of the project made it inevitable that she would be confronted with new and stimulating challenges.

Bringing It To Life

Episode I was the fourth *Star Wars* film, yet it brought to life a previous generation whose actions shaped events that took place before the classic trilogy. Biggar had to make sure costume continuity was respected, while at the same time drawing on her skills and imagination to trace her own path through new territory. The first challenge was the sheer number of costumes required to bring to life George Lucas' vision, and the short

time in which all of these ideas had to become physical reality. In less than a year, over one thousand costumes were painstakingly designed and put together, piece by piece. On a project of this scale, careful management of a production team is essential, so Biggar was there at every step, making sure that each member of the team was doing exactly what was needed.

Deep And Detailed

Inspiration for the myriad of costumes came from a variety of sources, including, of course, the classic *Star Wars* trilogy. Other inspiration included the cultures of several countries, mixed together and revised with the *Star Wars* universe in mind. Even the Roman Empire influenced some of the designs. But no hypothetical future style shows up in Biggar's work, for her inspiration came from history. "The costumes have all been drawn from the past. A long time ago. Not futuristic," she said.

Quick biography

After training at the Wimbledon School of Art, Trisha Biggar worked with several prestigious British theatre companies including the Glasgow Citizens Theatre and Opera North in Leeds.

THE NABOO ROYAL STARSHIP

A STREAMLINED VISION

CREATING THE ROYAL STARSHIP

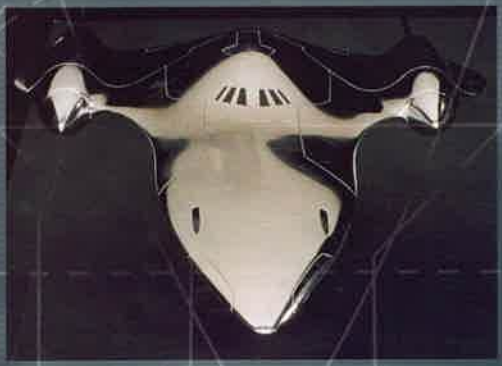
1 One of the storyboards from Episode I shows Queen Amidala's royal starship escaping the Trade Federation blockade of Naboo. The vessel had to be able to operate efficiently in a planetary atmosphere as well as in the void of space, making it logical for the hull to have a streamlined, aerodynamic exterior.

4 Taking later inspiration from real-world supersonic aircraft, some of Chiang's designs influenced royal craft for Episodes II and III.

5 A detail of the hyperdrive core of the royal starship, showing the damage inflicted by the Trade Federation during the ship's escape from Naboo.

The early concepts for the Queen's royal starship were for a yacht powered by a collapsible solar sail that folded away when the ship went into hyperspace. Rejected for Episode I, the concept returned in Episode II as Count Dooku's personal vessel.

2 When George Lucas decided he wanted the Queen's ship to have a sleek, chrome look, Design Director Doug Chiang sought inspiration from 1950's-style automobile hood ornaments.



3 Chiang also experimented with squid-like shapes when sketching the main hull, playing on the fact that Naboo was such a watery world. Echoes of this remain in the final version.

6 A sandy 'table-top' set was built for the miniature of the royal starship to allow for accurate reflections of the sands of Tatooine on the chrome surface.

7 The interior of the droid hold, home to up to eight astromechs. The lift at the back of the hold leads up to the surface of the ship.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 When did George Lucas first begin writing *Star Wars:* Episode I *The Phantom Menace*?

2 What links Queen Amidala and Genghis Khan?

3 What is the origin of Qui-Gon's name?

ANSWERS:

1. The screenplay for Episode I was written in 1995, but was adapted from Lucas' own 15-page outline begun in 1976 to help track character backstories from events that took place before Episode IV.

2. In Episode I, when Amidala addresses the Senate, the dress she is wearing is based on the Mongolian imperial fashion sported by Grand Empress Botre, wife of Genghis Khan.

3. Qui-Gon is a name that paraphrases the term Qigong – a Chinese discipline melding meditation and martial arts.

N

Nadon, Momaw

Character
Episode IV

Ithorian Momaw Nadon was high priest of the herdship *Tafanda Bay* when the Empire came to Ithor, a jungle planet so sacred to its native people that they no longer set foot on it. The Empire threatened to glass over the planet unless the Ithorians revealed their advanced agricultural techniques. When the Ithorian Elders refused, Nadon secretly met Imperial Captain Alima and gave him the information to save the planet. The Imperials left, but Nadon was exiled. He settled on Tatooine where, as a Rebel sympathiser, he used his secret mountain grove to hide Alliance agents. Nadon frequented Chalmun's Cantina, where he encountered Obi-Wan Kenobi. Nadon knew the Imperials were looking for the astromech with Kenobi – a demoted Alima had tried to force Nadon to help him. Once Kenobi had escaped, Nadon did a unique and terrible thing for an Ithorian – he told a lie. The lie was that he had warned Alima about Kenobi, and Nadon told it to the Imperial Prefect of Tatooine. Alima was killed. Years later, Momaw Nadon was pardoned by the Ithorians and resumed his duties on the *Tafanda Bay*.

Nar Shaddaa

Location
Expanded Universe

A criminal haven, and one of the most dangerous places in the galaxy, Nar Shaddaa was the largest moon of Nal Hutta, adopted Hutt homeworld. Known as Vertical City or Smuggler's Moon, it was fully urbanised, with some installations extending into low orbit. Its least deserved nickname was Little Coruscant. Unlike the often beautiful galactic capital world, the Smuggler's Moon was polluted, repellent and hugely violent. Anything could be bought by beings with the right connections, and it was riddled with organised crime groups. When the urban sprawl was utterly destroyed by the Yuuzhan Vong, few mourned Nar Shaddaa's passing.

Nass, Boss Rugor

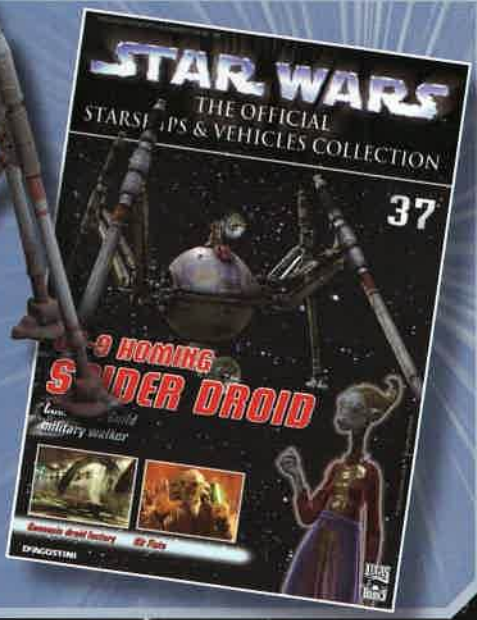
Character
Episodes I & III

Rugor Nass, an Ankura Gungan, was one of the most important Gungans of his generation. He had been a warrior, businessbeing, engineer and even a miner when he turned his attention to the Gungan civil service. An excellent organiser and charismatic leader, Nass won the title of Top Boss in an election landslide. Despite his reputation as a harsh-but-fair judge, he was remarkably tolerant – the survival of Jar Jar Binks being an excellent example. He was very intolerant of non-Gungans, and would not help the two Jedi Binks brought to his city after the invasion of Naboo. When his own people were attacked, Nass organised the evacuation that saved many of them. After an impassioned appeal from Queen Amidala, Boss Nass joined forces to defeat the Trade Federation. Nass served his people well in the Clone Wars, and later as a resistance leader against the Imperial occupation.

IN THIS ISSUE

WITH ISSUE 36:
NABOO QUEEN'S
ROYAL STARSHIP

IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE



WITH ISSUE 37:
HOMING SPIDER DROID

36
9 771756 967060